

Message Text

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ORIGIN COA-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, RO

SUBJ: GOR REQUEST FOR FISHING CREW EXCHANGES

1. AS NOTED IN MAY 2 MEMCON AND ELSEWHERE, WILL CONSIDER GOR REQUEST ON CREW EXCHANGES IN TERMS OF BILATERAL FISHERIES AGREEMENT. THIS MATTER IS DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH SUBJECT OF FISHERIES AGREEMENT AND WILL NOT RPT NOT BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY. EXCHANGES OF FISHING VESSEL CREWS OR OTHER SUPPORT FACILITIES PROVIDED IN US PORTS FOR FOREIGN FLEETS INCREASES THE EFFICIENCY OF THEIR OPERATION OFF US COASTS AND CONTRIBUTES TO THE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE OF THEIR OPERATIONS IN COMPETITION WITH US COASTAL FISHERMEN. ACCORDINGLY, SUCH FACILITIES ARE PROVIDED IN BILATERAL FISHERY AGREEMENTS IN TERMS OF RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN FISHING ACTIVITIES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONSERVATION OF THE STOCKS AND THE PROTECTION OF THE INTERESTS OF AMERICAN FISHERMEN. THE PORT CALL FACILITIES PROVIDED SOVIET AND POLISH FISHING FLEETS ARE ON THIS BASIS IN BILATERAL AGREEMENTS INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF THE SOVIET AGREEMENT WHICH DOES

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PERMIT EXCHANGE OF FISHING VESSEL CREWS.

2. WHILE IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ISSUE VISAS TO EXCHANGE CREW MEMBERS, THE GOR HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT PORT CALLS BY FISHING VESSELS WILL NOT PRT NOT BE PERMITTED ON A REGULAR BASIS IN THE ABSENCE OF A FISHERIES AGREEMENT. THUS

POINTLESS CONSIDER ISSUANCE VISAS IN ABSENCE OF AGREEMENT WHICH PERMITS SPECIFIED PORT CALLS FOR PURPOSE OF EXCHANGE OF CREWS.

3. AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED, WE WILL REVIEW ALL BILATERAL FISHERIES AGREEMENT QUESTIONS AFTER RECEIPT ROMANIAN COMMENTS ON DRAFT AGREEMENT PROVIDED LAST YEAR. THIS REVIEW WILL INCLUDE PROPOSAL FOR CREW EXCHANGES AS WELL AS MATERIAL COVERED IN DRAFT AGREEMENT IN LIGHT OF CHANGES IN FISHERIES SITUATION SINCE IT PREPARED. SUCH REVIEW ESPECIALLY NECESSARY IN VIEW OF FAILURE ICNAF MEETING REACH AGREEMENT ON FISHERIES REGULATIONS FOR AREA OFF US COAST (COPENHAGEN 1378). IN VIEW OF ICNAF FAILURE HEAVY SCHEDULE USG FISHERIES OFFICIALS MENTIONED IN STATE 107387 IS NOW EVEN MORE INTENSIVE AND DEPARTMENT UNABLE PREDICT HOW SOON SUCH REVIEW COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED EVEN IF GOR COMMENTS RECEIVED IN VERY NEAR FUTURE.

4. MAY 2 MEMCON REPORTS STATEMENT OF MR. MUNTEANU THAT ROMANIAN VESSELS CALL AT ST JOHNS FOR PROVISIONS, CREW CHANGES, AND REPAIRS. CANADIAN COASTAL FISHERIES PROTECTION ACT PROHIBITS CREW EXCHANGES ON FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS IN CANADIAN PORTS ALTHOUGH THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR THIS WAS PERMITTED UNTIL LAST FALL. CURRENT STRICT APPLICATION OF CANADIAN LAW MAY BE BASIS FOR GOR PUSHING US FOR PERMISSION MAKE CREW EXCHANGES IN US PORTS AND THUS PROSPECT OF FISHERIES AGREEMENT COVERING SUCH EXCHANGES SHOULD BE MORE ATTRACTIVE. RUSH

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